

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending. No claim has been canceled. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,765,140). In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 19 include limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, individually or in combination.

Knudson and the Applicant's claimed invention are solving significantly different problems and their approaches are significantly different. The Examiner states in the Office Action of December 21, 2005 that the task window claimed by the Applicant is the equivalent of the Time Entry System/Personal Computer (TES/PC) of Knudson. The TES/PC serves as timesheets for the personnel. As such, the TES is accessible to the personnel (equivalent to the users) who may directly enter their time for the assigned tasks into the TES. In Column 6 lines 30 – 35 it is taught that "the TES/PC software module...is...used by users for manually entering actual or expended time in accomplishing the project tasks using a visual or virtual time sheet." This is very different from the task window claimed by the Applicant. The Applicant's automated project tracking system employs a hierarchical approach to project management that is reflected in the user interface. It is designed for use by the owner, or the person in charge of the project, to plan a project and to document the progress of the project at the project tier, to request the performance of specific work by specific individuals or groups via electronic

correspondence at the request tier, and to document internal technical data and/or send the task to an external supplier or vendor for fulfillment. In contrast, the Time Entry System (TES) of Knudson is configured for specifically associating time tracking with separately developed project plans (Col. 4 lines 21 – 24.) The TES software includes three portions or modules referred to separately as TES Administrator (TES/Admin), TES planning (TES/Plan), and TES Personal Computer (TES/PC). Each of these three modules respectively addresses the specific need of personnel resource management, project planning, and time entry in an interrelated cooperation using the common or master TES database 18 (Col. 4 lines 26 – 34.) In other words, the automated project tracking system claimed by the Applicant is a tool for a manager (or owner) to manage all levels of a project and the Time Entry System of Knudson is a time tracking system for use by both managers and personnel to follow and to create timesheets. The Applicant's claims reflect this difference.

Specifically, independent claim 1 recites as follows:

1. A data structure for an automated project tracking system, the data structure residing in a computer readable memory and comprising:
 - a project window comprising a project identification field formatted to receive and display a project identifier and a project status field formatted to receive and display a project status;
 - a request window comprising a request identification field formatted to receive and display a request identifier and a request status field formatted to receive and display a request status; and
 - a task window comprising a task identification field formatted to receive and display a task identifier and a task status field formatted to receive and display a task status, the task window being read access only to a user who is not an owner,wherein one of the request window and task window is displayed within the project window while the project identifier and the project status are displayed within the project window concurrently, and
wherein the request and task windows are displayed as overlapped pages within the project window and each of the request and task windows is selectable via a page selector within the project window.

Independent claim 1 claims a task window that is read access only to a user that is not an owner. The owner has authority to read and to write to the project through the task window, and

to add others as co-owners of the project. Users who are not owners are only permitted read access to the information, and cannot add or change information (pg. 6 of detailed description, lines 3 – 6.) In contrast, Knudson teaches a Time Entry System (TES) that is aimed at tracking the actual time expended by personnel on their assigned tasks. It is respectfully submitted that Knudson fails to disclose the limitations set forth above with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of Knudson.

Similarly, independent claims 8, 15, and 19 include limitations that are similar to those discussed above. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 8, 15, and 19 are not anticipated by or rendered obvious by Knudson.

Given that the rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that the rest of the claims are not anticipated by Knudson. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully submitted. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance.